

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BARROW addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Asian American and Pacific Islander community and to commemorate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

As Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, CAPAC, I feel privileged to be here tonight to speak of the history and accomplishments of the Asian American and Pacific Islander, AAPI, community.

Additionally, I will be highlighting those issues affecting our community that are also priorities for CAPAC.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge and remember extraordinary community activists, advocates, leaders, and long-time friends of the AAPI community that we have lost this year, such as Fred Korematsu, Dr. John B. Tsu, K. Patrick Okura, Iris Chang, and my colleague and friend, Congressman Bob Matsui.

Thanks to the late Representative Frank Horton from New York and my good friend, Secretary Norman Mineta, along with Senators DANIEL INOUE and Spark Matsunaga, May is designated as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month to celebrate and honor the contributions of the Asian and Pacific Islander community.

The first 10 days of May coincide with two important anniversaries: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants on May 7, 1843, to the United States; and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869.

In 1992, Congress passed the law that officially designated May of each year

as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

The first AAPI settlement in this country dates to 1763, when Filipinos escaped imprisonment aboard Spanish galleons and established a community near New Orleans. Today, that AAPI community is one of the fastest growing populations in the country, with over 12 million AAPIs living in the U.S. and representing 4.5 percent of the total U.S. population.

My home State of California has both the largest AAPI population, 4.6 million folks, and the largest numerical increase of AAPIs since April of 2000.

Mr. Speaker, this year's theme for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is "Liberty and Freedom For All."

As we honor the AAPI community's contributions to this great Nation, I would also like to note the very social injustices the AAPI community still face. For example, the New York Times today reported a recent study commissioned by the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, a Washington-based civil rights organization.

The study showed that AAPIs portray only 2.7 percent of the regular characters on prime time national network television. Our community is still misrepresented in all areas of society, especially in the media and on prime time television even though we make up 5 percent of the total population.

Although we are often misperceived as monolithic, our community is extremely diverse in our languages, ethnicities, and culture. Aggregating such a large and diverse group makes it difficult to understand the unique problems faced by the individual ethnicities and subgroups such as the Southeast Asian Americans who are refugees who fled their home countries during the late 1970s and the early 1980s.

As a country, we need to better adjust the needs of the AAPI community when we discuss immigration, health, and education issues.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO).

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, as the congressional representative from Guam, it is my honor to join my colleagues in commemorating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. I want to thank our chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA), the chairman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, for his outstanding leadership and for organizing this Special Order to recognize the contributions of Asians and Pacific Islander Americans to our Nation.

Today as we celebrate "Liberty and Freedom For All," and as thousands of American servicemen and -women continue to fight the global war on terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan, we are reminded of the sacrifices made to ensure our freedom. We reflect on the thousands of Asian and Pacific Islanders who are serving this country with honor and distinction in very dangerous circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, I especially want to honor those who have given their lives to protect our freedom, including Guam's Army Specialist Christopher Wesley, Lieutenant Michael Vega, Sergeant Eddie Chan, Corporal Jaygee Meluat, and Specialist Jonathan Santos, all servicemen from Guam who were killed in Iraq.

I mention these heroes as a reminder that Americans in the territories stand shoulder to shoulder with their citizens when our Nation calls, and that we will share the burdens and the sacrifices to preserve our freedom.

We remember prominent Asian and Pacific Islander Americans who dedicated their lives to public service, doing their part to promote justice, not just for Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, but for all Americans. Tonight I would like to make special mention of two of our colleagues, the late Congressman Robert Matsui of California who was a staunch advocate for the cause of the disadvantaged, the elderly, and young Americans; and the late Congresswoman Patsy Mink of Hawaii, who was a champion of women's rights and for the poor. Each has left a legacy that lives on in those whose lives they have touched and improved.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is an opportunity to educate our fellow citizens about the history and culture of Asian Pacific Island Americans. Their contribution to America is not just the diverse cultures that they have introduced to this land; it is also their stories of incredible journeys to freedom.

Historically, Asians and Pacific Islanders have known war and strife. They have survived and thrived to the benefit of America. They have a powerful story to tell, and they have a love for this Nation that many of us today take for granted.

This year, the people of Guam will commemorate the 61st anniversary of our islands' liberation by the United States Armed Forces during World War II. As the only American territory with a civilian population occupied by the enemy during World War II, Guamanians risked their lives due to their loyalty to America, and endured great hardship and brutality. During this dark period in Guam's history, our people experienced beatings, executions, massacres, beatings, torture, rape, forced labor, forced marches, and internment in concentration camps. I want to recognize the survivors of the occupation of Guam for their courage, their sacrifice and steadfast loyalty to our great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, a Federal commission was tasked by Congress to examine whether the people of Guam received equal treatment in the handling of war claims as compared to their fellow citizens.

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The Guam War Claims Review Commission reported in June 2004 that there was indeed a lack of parity and